

Annual Report to the Governor on the

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act - Part C

For the period covering October 2000 through December 2001



Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program

Division of Developmental Disabilities

January 2002

Interagency Coordinating Council Certification of Annual Report

On behalf of the Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) of Washington,

I certify that the ICC ✓ agrees/_____ disagrees (*) with the information in the State's Annual Performance Report for FFY 2000 covering October 1, 2000 through December 31, 2001. The ICC understands that Section 80.40 of the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), requires that the lead agency prepare an Annual Performance Report containing information about the activities and accomplishments of the fifteen (15) month grant period, as well as how funds were spent. The ICC has reviewed the Report for completeness of its contents and accuracy.

We submit this Report in fulfillment of our obligation under Section 641(e) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to submit an annual report to the Secretary and to the Governor on the status of the State's early intervention program for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.



Signature of ICC Chairperson

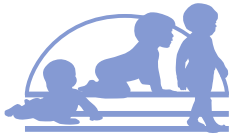
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Date

(*) The Council may submit additional comments related to the lead agency's Annual Performance Report and append comments to the Report

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Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP)

Mission Statement

The Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program supports families, Tribes, state agencies, local communities and providers to ensure that all eligible infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families in Washington State have access to individualized, quality early intervention services in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C.

In order to accomplish this mission we will:

Ensure all families have equal access to a coordinated system of services and supports that occurs in natural learning environments, recognizes current research and practice in family-centered early intervention, promotes interdisciplinary and cross agency collaboration, and is built upon mutual respect;

Ensure that services are provided in a manner that is responsive and timely;

Ensure statewide implementation of IDEA, Part C by providing information to the general public and technical assistance to families, providers, agencies and Tribes;

Provide support and training to local service providers, agencies, and Tribes in order to enhance their capacity to provide services that are family-centered, community-based, and culturally relevant;

Ensure that systematic outreach and education are available to families of infants and toddlers with disabilities in order to assist them in accessing early intervention services, assuring that participation is voluntary, and acknowledging the unique characteristics of each family; and

Provide leadership in the identification of issues affecting infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families by participating in related state, Tribal and local activities, and data collection.





What is the Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program?

The Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP), located within the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), is the program responsible for implementing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C in Washington State.

DSHS was designated and has served as the Washington State lead agency in 1987 with the primary responsibility for planning and implementing IDEA, Part C in Washington State. IDEA, Part C funds are used to enhance early intervention services for children with disabilities, ages birth-to-three years, and their families, who meet Washington State's eligibility criteria.



Please visit the ITEIP Web Site at
<http://www.wa.gov/dshs/iteip/iteip.html>
for additional program information.



Who is Involved?

Four other state agencies work in partnership with DSHS through an Interagency Agreement. Those agencies are:

- ⊙ Office of Community Development (OCD), formerly Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (DCTED);
- ⊙ Department of Health (DOH);
- ⊙ Department of Services for the Blind (DSB); and
- ⊙ Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).

Because no one agency in Washington State is responsible for all early intervention services, DSHS, as lead agency, implements an interagency agreement with each of the participating state agencies. The purpose of the interagency agreement is to ensure the implementation of a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary, and interagency service delivery system for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.

The following guiding principles are reflected within the early intervention services system throughout Washington State:

⊙ **Family-centered supports and services that:**

- Recognize the changing nature of families and the developmental needs of children;
- Listen to what individuals and families say they need, and assist families to meet their needs in a way that maintains dignity and respects their choices; and
- Emphasize strengths and individual needs of infants and toddlers with disabilities, and include natural settings and supports.

⊙ **Culturally-relevant supports and services that:**

- Respect the culture and beliefs of each family and use them as resources on behalf of the family; and
- Provide diverse communities with equal access to planning services and programs.

⊙ **Coordinated services that:**

- Encourage coordination and innovation by providing both formal and informal ways for people to collaborate in planning, problem solving, and service delivery; and
- Allow families, providers, community people, and other agencies to creatively provide the most effective, responsive, and flexible services.



© **Locally planned supports and services that:**

- Respect the special characteristics, needs, and strengths of each community; and
- Include a cross-section of local community partners from the public, private, and Tribal sectors in the planning and delivery of services and supports.

© **Community-based prevention that:**

- Creates positive conditions in communities, promotes the well-being of families, and reduces the need for future services.

© **Outcome-based supports and services that:**

- Use indicators that reflect goals established by families and communities; and
- Work toward these goals and outcomes in each agency.

© **Customer service that:**

- Is provided by courteous, sensitive, and competent individuals.

© **Creativity that:**

- Increases the flexibility of funding and programs to promote innovation in planning, development, and provision of quality services; and
- Eliminates barriers to coordination and quality services.

What are the Challenges to Interagency Implementation?

Washington State does not currently have a state law requiring services to all children, birth-to-three, with disabilities and their families. Although all five state agencies participate in the interagency agreement, local school districts and county human service

agencies may locally choose, at their own discretion, not to provide early intervention services to these children. Currently 162 of 298 (54%) of the local school districts and two-thirds of the county human service agencies serve infants and toddlers with disabilities.

To address the above challenge, the Office of the Superintendent of Public





Instruction made changes to the special education Washington Administrative Codes (WAC). The new WAC clarifies that school districts serving children, birth to three, provide those services in accordance with IDEA, Part C. This change greatly assists the early intervention system to be more consistent across the state.

Another challenge is the changing nature of health care services due to the advent of managed care. Eligibility and funding for Medicaid has increased because families with incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level are now covered. Services, which previously were provided by specialists, have shifted to a managed care system.

Washington State is participating in the federal Children's Health Insurance Program. Children in families with incomes between 200% and 250% of the federal poverty level are eligible. The program began in February 2000. This program adds funding and creates additional access points for early intervention services. In order to access this resource, it requires additional shifts to be made by service providers in the billing process.

Current Gaps in Services

ITEIP requires each early intervention services contractor to develop and implement a local early intervention services plan for their geographic service area. The plan must address gaps in the local service area, and activities and processes to be implemented to resolve service gaps. Current gaps identified in local plans include:

- ⊙ Enhancing outreach for rural and under-served areas;
- ⊙ Providing additional services in natural environments;
- ⊙ Accessing qualified childcare for children with disabilities or special health care needs;
- ⊙ Retaining qualified personnel in rural areas (especially speech language pathologists, physical therapists, and occupational therapists);
- ⊙ Identifying more local service options for rural communities;
- ⊙ Obtaining referrals from medical providers;
- ⊙ Increasing knowledge of managed care providers;
- ⊙ Developing mental health options for infants and toddlers;
- ⊙ Recruiting qualified respite providers;



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- ⊙ Developing recreational opportunities for children with disabilities or special health care needs;
- ⊙ Ensuring vision and hearing screenings and services;
- ⊙ Enhancing outreach to fathers with children involved in early intervention services; and
- ⊙ Accessing public transportation to needed early intervention services.

The extensive requirements to receive federal funding continue to be an issue for many individuals in Washington. The original intent of the federal legislation was to have the IDEA, Part C program federally funded at 40%. Although federal allocations continue to receive a slight increase, current federal appropriations remain substantially below the level necessary to support this federal statute and service expectation.

State Lead Agency Activities *Contracted Early Intervention Services (EIS)*

Each geographical area designates a local early intervention services lead agency to receive IDEA, Part C direct service dollars. During October 1, 2000 through September 30, 2001 the type of local lead agencies varies as follows:

Non-profit agencies	15
County Human Services	6
Combined Health & Human Services	1
Health Jurisdictions	7
Education agencies	4
Tribes	2
State agency (Regional DDD office)	1
Total	36



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A complete list of local early intervention services lead agencies is available on the ITEIP Web Site at <http://www.wa.gov/dshs/iteip/iteip.html>.

The local early intervention services lead agencies ensure Family Resources Coordination and the other required direct services. Implementation of services varies from one designated geographic area to another according to the local service providers and locally based resources and needs. Early intervention services lead agencies develop and implement local early intervention service plans and interagency agreements in order to ensure service delivery in a collaborative system. Eligible infants and toddlers and their families access services through their Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

Tribal governments are respected as sovereign governments and encouraged to participate in Part C activities. Tribal governments are given the opportunity to apply directly to ITEIP or as subcontractors with the local early intervention services lead agency in their geographic area. ITEIP and the DSHS Office of Indian Policy and Support Services (IPSS) coordinate technical assistance for contract arrangements. ITEIP, the Indian Policy and Support Services and the Indian Policy Advisory Council continue to work to strengthen ties with Tribal Governments and to assist in bringing local agencies and Tribal Governments together.

- © The Muckleshoot Tribe chooses to contract directly with ITEIP as the local lead agency to provide early intervention services on the reservation and for the southeast King County geographic area. Services were, and continue to be, provided for both Indian and non-Indian children and their families.
- © The Spokane Tribe also chooses to contract directly with ITEIP and serves South Stevens County. They hold childfind clinics once a month on the reservation and coordinate services with surrounding providers and the County Interagency Coordinating Councils (CICC).





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- © The Puyallup Tribes chooses to subcontract with their local lead agency, Pierce County Human Services. The Tribe provides early intervention services and family resources coordination to Tribal children, birth-to-three.

County Interagency Coordinating Councils (CICC)

The purpose of the CICC is to advise and assist the local early intervention services lead agency. Evidence of community support for locally designated lead agencies must be submitted with the contract application.

Each CICC membership includes representation from the following:

- © Parents and family members of children, ages birth-through-twelve, with disabilities and/or developmental delays;
- © Local health departments/districts;
- © Tribal Governments (where applicable);
- © Washington State Migrant Council (where applicable);
- © Minority community representatives;
- © School districts and educational service districts;
- © Higher education/personnel preparation;
- © Early intervention service providers;
- © Military (where applicable);
- © Medical providers;
- © County Human Services;
- © Local DSHS representation from the Division of Developmental Disabilities, Community Services Office, and Children's Administration;
- © County or regional Mental Health Agency;
- © Child care providers; and
- © Other public and private agencies providing services to infants and toddlers (Head Start, Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program, parks and recreation, Medicaid transportation brokers, etc).



Some of the issues addressed at the local level by CICC's include:

- ⊙ Working to improve the local early intervention system by identifying public and private funding sources across all relevant community partners;
- ⊙ Assisting in implementing the local payor of last resort policies and procedures;
- ⊙ Helping identify local gaps in services and community needs and developing strategies to improve/resolve them;
- ⊙ Collaborating and coordinating with other local planning groups in improving services for children and families;
- ⊙ Organizing local public awareness outreach efforts;
- ⊙ Organizing and sponsoring local early intervention trainings for families, providers and community members interested in early intervention/early childhood issues.

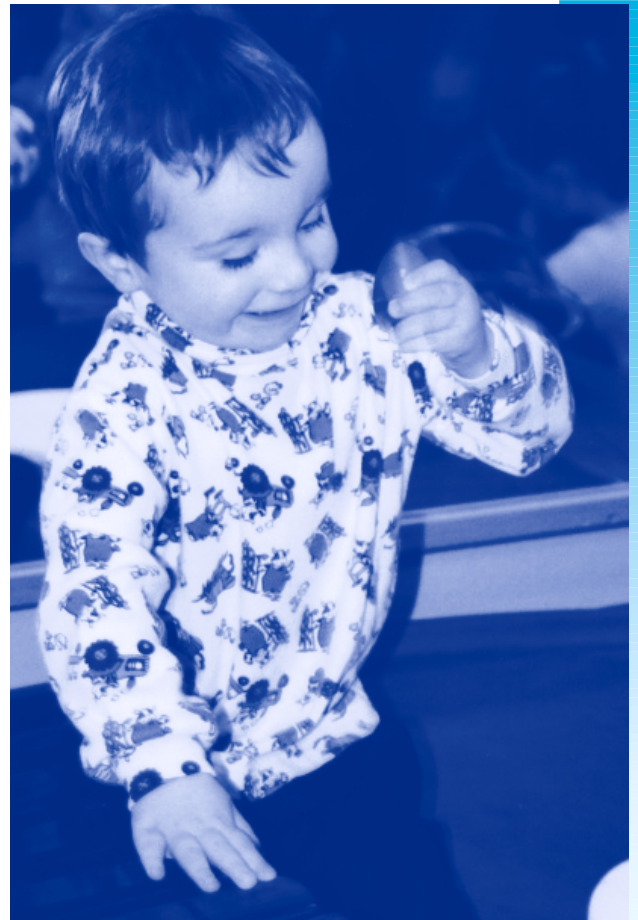
Annual Activities with Statewide Impacts

In addition to Early Intervention Services contracts and CICC contracts, ITEIP supports the following activities:

Coordination for Statewide Parent Participation

ITEIP continues to contract with the non-profit organization Washington Parents are Vital in Education (PAVE) to provide funding for the statewide Parent Participation Coordinator. The Parent Participation Coordinator works closely with the SICC Family Leadership Team activities and Washington Family to Family Network and assists in planning and coordinating the SICC sponsored "Conversations with Families".

In addition, the coordinator provides technical assistance to ITEIP, the SICC, state agencies, local early intervention service lead agencies, CICC's, families/parents, service providers, and others regarding family involvement and the importance of families in the provision of early





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intervention services. This contract also provides scholarships to cover costs, including childcare, for families to attend the annual Infant and Early Childhood Conference, as well as supporting a parent to attend the National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Conference held annually in Washington, D.C.

Annual Unduplicated Count

Up until December 1, 2000, ITEIP contracted with DSHS Research and Data Analysis (RDA) to perform the unduplicated count of infants and toddlers, ages birth-to-three, with developmental delays or disabilities who were enrolled in public early intervention services. Since 1995, six reports have been published. In addition to the unduplicated count, the reports include comparisons with national prevalence rates, enrollment rates by county, and enrollment by risk factors.

The ITEIP Data System

Data collection is a major ongoing ITEIP activity. We replaced our paper system with a web based electronic collection system. The firm Logical e Business Solutions developed the project managed by the DSHS Division of Developmental Disabilities Division. The ITEIP Data System went online in January 29, 2001 and is in the “use and tune phase.” The system is based upon the components of the IFSP. ITEIP, local lead agencies, and Family Resources Coordinators are now able to get real-time reports on workload activities as well as the required state and federal reports. This project has resulted in a major change and improvement in the way we do business. Beginning with December 1, 2001, the new ITEIP electronic data system is providing the unduplicated count for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families with an Individualized Family Service Plan.

Public Awareness and Central Directory

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies (HMHB) continues to provide public awareness and the Central Directory 1-800-322-2588 number for statewide access to early intervention information and referral. The line is staffed in two languages, with interpreter services in other languages available as needed.

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies received a total of 164 calls asking specifically for a Family Resources Coordinator referral. A total 3746 free information packets containing the “Please Ask, Babies Can’t Wait” pamphlet and county specific Family Resources Coordinator contact information were sent to the 1-800 number callers. HMHB distributes ITEIP specific materials at local community health fairs and statewide conferences throughout the contract period. The Internet access is located at www.hmhb.org.



Referrals are made to the appropriate local FRC. Referrals also come through the Department of Health (DOH) sponsored Answers for Special Kids (ASK) line at HMHB. The ASK line provides information to anyone with questions or concerns about children with developmental delays, disabilities or health concerns. HMHB provides information on topics such as family support, health insurance, childcare, recreational services, equipment services, specialty services, developmental disability therapist resources, and more.

Access Washington Resource Directory (AWRD)

AWRD is a statewide community resource directory developed and maintained by the Department of Employment Security. The project compiles data regarding statewide community resources into a hard copy resource directory and diskette format. The directory takes information, additions and corrections and updates the diskette every six months.

AWRD, through a link to the ITEIP website, maintains a listing of local early intervention resources available to families, including the name of the local lead agency, the County Interagency Coordinating Council (CICC) lead agency, CICC Chair, lead Family Resource Coordinator, and the local public awareness contact for each county/geographic service area. For additional AWRD information, the Internet access is at: www.arwd.org.

AWRD is now the backbone for the Washington Implementation Network (WIN 211) that provides information for health and human services via the telephone. More information is available at the WIN website at www.win211.org.

CHILD Profile

(Public Awareness Enhancement)

The CHILD (Children's Health, Immunization, Linkages and Development) Profile, Department of Health (DOH), is a public/private partnership funded by DOH. Health promotion mailings are one component. Age appropriate health promotion mailings are sent to all parents of newborns in the state, approximately 80,000 births a year. Parents receive incremental





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mailings until the child reaches age six (six during the first year, two each year thereafter) regarding normal growth and development, immunizations, well-child check ups and safety information. ITEIP staff worked in collaboration with CHILD Profile and DOH to develop and fund three targeted developmental informational inserts. The inserts target ages three-to-six months, six-to-twelve months, and twelve to eighteen months to provide specific information to families on the key milestones of crawling, walking, and talking. CHILD Profile began mailing the inserts in December 2000. The inserts will be included in the mailings for the period December 2000 through December 2002. ITEIP and CHILD Profile continue to look at funding options for production of the inserts beyond December 2002.

Family Resources Coordinator Training

ITEIP continues to contract with the Educational Service District (ESD) 112 to provide Family Resources Coordinator Training. ESD 112 coordinated with the other eight ESDs across the state in providing these trainings. Training for first year Family Resources Coordinators consisted of a three-day overview of the program including all basic elements necessary for performing FRC duties. Two sessions of the Basic Training were delivered through the statewide "K20" video-conferencing system. Since participants received training at their local ESD, more people were trained with less travel and stronger local supports were established.

FRCs in their second year attended their choice of skill building trainings. The sessions included the Art of the Individualized Family Service Plan, Transition: From Communication to Action, and Leadership and the Family Resources Coordinator.



Individuals who had been FRC's for more than two years were required to document at least 12 hours of training related to early intervention. 110 FRC's completed the first year training, and 79 participants attended second year training.

ESD 112 also acted as a clearinghouse of



training resources related to early intervention. *The Starting Line* newsletter was published and 7,000 copies were disseminated three times during the year. The newsletter included lists of resources and a schedule of FRC trainings and registration forms, as well as a schedule of statewide training events which would satisfy the 12-hour training requirement. *The Starting Line* is available on line at www.esd112.wednet.edu/sss/index.html.

The FRC Training Advisory Group provided expertise and connections to resources, as well as feedback on specific training outcomes, strategies, and activities. The Group met three times during the year.

Washington State Mediation System

ITEIP continues to contract with Sound Options Group, L.L.C. to provide mediation for parents, families, and agencies participating in IDEA, Part C. There were four requests for mediation this past year. Two formal mediations were held with each being settled and the other two requests for mediation were withdrawn.

Sound Options Group provided awareness presentations to CICC's, parents, and at professional conferences to explain the use of mediators and to inform about the availability of mediation and training. Nine presentations occurred across the state with approximately 375 people attending.

The Sound Options Group also provided three intensive skill-building trainings statewide on Collaborative Decision Making: Part I Negotiation, Part II Mediation, and Part III Large Group Facilitation. Twenty-seven participants received the trainings. In addition, one-day seminars were offered on Dialogue, Diversity, Breaking Deadlocks, and Communication from the Heart. Twenty participants received the trainings.

Washington State Formal Audit Reviews

ITEIP contracted with the Department of Social and Health Services, Office of Administrative Resources, Operations Review and Consultation to conduct eight formal audits of local early intervention services lead agencies between October 2000 and September 2001.

At least one program auditor and one financial reviewer conducted each audit. Audit findings and issues identified are reported to the local lead agency as well as to ITEIP, DDD, DSHS, Legislature and State Auditor. A plan of correction was required from each audited agency. ITEIP continues to monitor the local correction plans for improvements and corrections.



Enhancing Parent Leadership Training In Washington/Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC/ITEIP) Leadership Training Institute

Working in collaboration, ITEIP developed and contracted with the State Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) to provide a two-year statewide Developmental Disabilities Leadership Institute for families of children with disabilities, ages birth through twelve, families with children thirteen through adult, and self advocates. ITEIP and DDC each funded one-half of the total cost of the project. The contract covered the period October 1999 through November 30, 2001.

The Advisory Group to this project included representatives from the University of Washington, ARC of Washington, Washington State Parent to Parent and the Washington State Fathers Network. Two SICC Family Leadership Team members served on the advisory group providing oversight to the Leadership Institute project. Three-day workshops were held for participants during June and September 2000 and a two-day workshop was held in November 2000. Two two-day workshops occurred in April and September 2001. Over 35 people participated in this intensive leadership training on disability related issues.

The 12 days of training accomplished the following outcomes:

- Trained knowledgeable, skilled self-confident and empowered leaders in the disabilities movement;
- Provided opportunities for future leaders to develop connections with agencies, statewide organizations and resources;
- Identified processes involved in being effective leaders;
- Worked in teams upon leaving the Institute with an action plan for supporting leadership activities in their communities;
- Participants developed strategies to enhance participation of others in their communities.

Enhancement of Family Support Activities

ITEIP contracted and continued work in partnership with the ARC of Washington to accomplish the following outcomes related to enhancing family support in the state:

- Increase, strengthen and further enhance a comprehensive, coordinated, collaborative family support system for Washington families;
- Provide one-time funding to enhance Parent to Parent Support activities to assure supports are available statewide; and



- Plan a family support conference focusing on families with infants and toddlers, ages birth-to-six with disabilities/delays from diverse, minority and rural areas of the state.

The Washington Family to Family Network (WFFN), comprising statewide family support organizations, Department of Health and ITEIP, meet to share information, family support resources, and to identify the ongoing diverse support needs of families. The organizations include: ARC of Washington, Washington State Parent to Parent, Washington PAVE (Parents are Vital in Education), Washington State Father's Network, Family Voices of Washington State, and the Washington State Sibling Support Project. WFFN continues to coordinate and collaborate on many statewide projects and grant opportunities.

The Autism Outreach Project

ITEIP contracts with the Northwest Educational Service District 189 to enhance funding from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to support the Autism Outreach Project. The project is designed to improve access to appropriate early intervention services for children birth-to-three with autism and their families. The enhanced funding provides a lending library, regional and statewide training, information and referral to families, service providers working in school district birth-to-three programs, developmental centers, and other public/private agencies.

The project sponsored a statewide autism summit in the fall of 2001. The purpose of the summit was to provide a structured, yet open forum for networking, collaborating, and discussing issues facing the autism and related disorders community. One of the sub-groups focused on the issue of early intervention. The summit report will be available in early 2002. The project website is <http://www.esd189.org>.

Low Incidence Sensory Disabilities Services

ITEIP contracts with North Central Educational Service District 171 to improve access statewide to early intervention services for children, birth-to-three, with sensory disabilities and their families. This funding also enhances funding from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The project is administered by Washington Sensory Disabilities Services (WSDS) and provides consultation, referral services, parent-to-parent support, workshops, transition support, a lending library, and interpreter support for children with vision impairment, blindness, deafness or hard of hearing, and deaf-blindness and their families. The website for this project is www.wsdsonline.org.



Production of Natural Environments Video Tape

ITEIP contracted with Jarvis Productions, to produce the video “Natural Learning Environments: Everybody Wins.” The primary purpose of the video is to highlight families and children receiving early intervention services in natural settings as part of a family’s everyday routine. The video shares basic information regarding the provision of services in natural environments as required by the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C.

Conference Support for Families

Washington Association for the Education of Young Children (WAEYC)

ITEIP provided \$4,000.00 to support WAEYC conferences this year. Funding supported parent scholarships to attend and participate in WAEYC’s Summer Symposium and Annual Conference. ITEIP’s funding supported fourteen parents to attend the Annual Conference and assisted many others to participate in the Summer Symposium.

Washington State Father’s Network

ITEIP provided \$2,000 to the Washington State Father’s Network (WSFN) to assist fathers of children with disabilities to attend and participate in their annual statewide Fathers Network Conference. A record 110 attended, with 42 men from the region receiving scholarship assistance from ITEIP and other sponsors. This enabled WSFN to reach a broad and diverse group of fathers. More than half of the fathers attending were from Central, Eastern and rural areas of Washington.

Infant Early Childhood Conference

ITEIP provided \$6,000 to support fifty-five parents of children with disabilities, birth-to-six, to attend this annual conference. ITEIP staff participate in support of the annual conference planning activities, including website design and program planning activities. Several ITEIP staff also volunteer during the conference itself.

ITEIP sponsored a Pre-Conference Day, titled “Transition From Communication to Action” for Family Resources Coordinators, infant/toddler and preschool staff and administrators. The Infant and Early Childhood Conference is Washington’s primary annual conference focused on infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with developmental delays or disabilities.



State Interagency Coordinating Council Activities

The State Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and Their Families (SICC) is the Governor appointed council required by IDEA, Part C, and Washington State Executive Order 01-04. The SICC advises and assists the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and the Department of Health (DOH), Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), Department of Services for the Blind (DSB), Office of Community Development (OCD) and other participating agencies in the implementation of the statewide early intervention system. The SICC meets at least quarterly. All SICC meetings and SICC Committee meetings are open to the public.

State Interagency Coordinating Council Members

As of December 2001

Jean Kelly, Ph.D. *Chair*
Julie Ann Avila, *Vice-Chair*
Janie Bedwell
Beth Ellen Davis
Jolene Erickson
Wanda Gauntt
Joanne Harrison
Jan Hicks-Thomson
Tim Hunter

Ginger Kwan
Karen Lindsay
Sandra Lund
Joan Martin
Mary Kay Quinlan
Linda Rolfe
Bonnie Sandahl

Personnel Preparation
Parent
Bureau of Indian Affairs
M.D. Military
Service Provider, Public Health
Parent
Parent
Service Provider, Public Health Agency
Office of Community Development,
Community Services
Parent
Parent
Parent
Service Provider, Developmental Center
DSHS, Office of Child Care Policy
DSHS, Division of Developmental Disabilities
Service Provider, Neuromuscular Center





Susan Sandall, Ph. D.
Andrea Sheehan
Anne Shureen
Roger Smith
Elizabeth Stucker
Lonna Swanson
Katherine TeKolste, M.D.
Scott Truax
Millie Weers
Jan Wrathall
Linda Yates

Personnel Preparation/Higher Education
Washington State Migrant Council
Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction
Service Provider, School District
Education, School District
Tribal Representative
Service Provider, Physician
Department of Services for the Blind
Head Start
County Human Services
Service Provider,
Neurodevelopmental Center

Conversations with Families

ITEIP and the SICC continue to host state and local Conversations with Families throughout the state. Child care, interpreter services and any other supports are provided to ensure that families are able to participate in Conversations with Families.

Conversations with Families continues to provide a valuable means for families to share their experiences within early intervention and allows them the opportunity to give recommendations for strategies to improve the early intervention services system, both locally and statewide. Themes that have emerged from these conversations include the need for more information about transition services, better referral from medical providers to early intervention services, a need for better service support in rural areas and improved family support services statewide, especially respite care services.



The Conversations with Families model has received an enthusiastic response from local communities and is being shared as a model on the national level. ITEIP continues to invite local CICC's to host Conversations with Families, replicated after the State model. During this period, the State Conversations With Families was held in Spokane in June 2001. Families who participated in this year's conversations came from Adams, King, Lincoln, Okanogan, Spokane and Thurston Counties. Local Conversations were held in Pierce and Grays Harbor counties.



SICC Committees: Structure and Activities

Family Leadership Team (FLT)

The Family Leadership Team is comprised primarily of family members of children with developmental delays or disabilities. The mission of the FLT is to ensure that families are represented at all levels of the state's early intervention system for children with disabilities or developmental delays, age birth-to-six. FLT members are actively involved in other SICC committees, contributing many hours to ensure the family perspective is heard at all levels of planning and implementation of the Part C early intervention system.

The FLT was involved in a variety of different projects and activities.

For example:

- FLT members were participants in the ITEIP/Developmental Disabilities Council advisory group that planned three Disabilities Leadership weekends during the year, as part of a two-year intensive leadership-training project.
- Members participated in local and state legislative events, including the Legislative Reception in Olympia in January 2001.
- Washington was one of five states selected to send a team to attend the National Interagency Coordinating Council Parent Leadership Institute in May 2001. The goal of this meeting is to learn from and support parents serving on Interagency Coordinating Councils throughout the country by providing access to resources and communication networks vital to their work. Five FLT members attended this national 3-day event in Georgia and returned with a work-plan to implement in Washington State.



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- Families gathered in the summer of 2001 at Camp Primetime, for a weekend of strategic planning, networking and getting to know other team members' families.

The Family Leadership Team continues to compile input received from Conversations with Families and develop recommendations back to the Council. The FLT recommended transition information be developed for families, increased outreach to the medical community to improve referrals to early intervention, and a family newsletter to provide information to and from families and state agencies as one way of improving communication. FLT members served on various advisory boards to assist in implementing the above recommendations.

FLT members directed the development of new materials. Examples of new materials include:

- Transition book for families exiting early intervention at age three;
- Family Leadership Team brochure to assist with parent and family member recruitment;
- Citizen's complaint brochure; and
- Parent Tips booklet for building and enhancing their relationship with their child's doctor.

Materials are scheduled to be completed and distributed in 2002.

A *Family to Family* newsletter focusing on emotional support was developed and distributed statewide in 2001. FLT members provided content and reviewed the newsletter to ensure a family focus and perspective. As recommended to the SICC, families involved in Conversations with Families were sent the newsletter that reflects the issues identified in all past state and local Conversations with Families. The newsletter provides additional information on how these issues are being addressed at the local and state level. The newsletter was also distributed to families who have children with disabilities and/or developmental delays age birth-to-six, identified through local early intervention contacts. Family and public response to the newsletter has been very positive.

Data Committee

The primary role of the Data Committee, in the last year, has been to monitor the development and implementation of the new ITEIP Data System. Additional time was spent reviewing data from the 2000 December 1 child count, OSEP generated national



data and requirements, data and programs from other state service agencies, and proposals for the Washington Initiative for Supported Employment (WISE) grant to the Department of Health. The committee also began work on the new priority topics of infant mental health and stabilized funding.

Services Committee

The first meeting of the Services Committee was held in October of 2001. The committee surveyed topics of interest and started work on the task of exploring the problems of providing infant mental health services in the State of Washington. The committee is working on an Infant Mental Health Summit to be held on April 17, 2002.

Personnel/Training Committee

The mission of the Personnel/Training Committee is to promote early intervention preparation and training to support young children with delays and/or disabilities and their families. During the last year, the Personnel/Training Committee set three goals:

- 1) Develop a statewide theoretical framework for early intervention,
- 2) Examine data on state personnel and training issues, and
- 3) Develop a training system guided by unifying principles.

A proposal was made to the SICC to expand the higher education survey in the fall of 2000 and to hold another statewide forum in 2001. However, the funding for these activities was not available.

In the summer of 2001, the committee identified new activities based on the SICC strategic plan issues of stable funding and infant mental health. The committee proposed to gather data on how personnel recruitment, retention and training issues are affected by funding. They will also gather information on personnel and training issues related to infant mental health.

Inclusive Child Care Committee

This Committee resulted from a technical assistance appreciation grant, “Map to Inclusive Child Care” awarded to the State of Washington in 1998. To ensure coordination with Washington’s child care community, this committee was established as a committee of both the Child Care Coordinating Committee and the SICC.

Inclusive Child Care is defined as childcare and out-of-school care that includes children and youth with disabilities, special health care needs, and challenging behaviors together with their typically developing peers. The mission of the committee is to increase access



Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program

to quality inclusive child care and out-of-school care for children and youths throughout Washington State.

At the June 12, 2001 SICC meeting, it was decided that the Inclusive Child Care Committee would no longer be a standing committee of the SICC, but should be a subcommittee of the SICC Services Committee.

Funding Committee

The purpose of the Funding Committee is to develop recommendations for the SICC on fiscal matters related to implementing Washington's early intervention system. The Funding Committee priorities completed in the last year include:

- Developed the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2000 budget;
- Developed in collaboration with ITEIP, the 2000 funding formula recommendations for Direct Service and County Interagency Coordinating Council contracts; and
- In collaboration with ITEIP, developed the revised funding formula for allocations to early intervention services lead agencies.

The Funding Committee also continued to monitor the effect of Medicaid on the birth to three population. Seventy percent (70%) of children receiving early intervention services are eligible for Medicaid. The Committee has identified issues effecting the Medicaid population. Some of the issues included:

- Managed care providers are inconsistent in making referrals to early intervention;
- Some early intervention programs are unable or choose not to bill Medicaid;
- Some managed care providers are referring only to Neurodevelopmental Centers and;
- Monitoring Medicaid waivers the state has requested.

The committee will be focusing on the two SICC priorities of stabilized early intervention funding and infant mental health in the next year.

Public Policy Committee

The Public Policy Committee, formally known as the Legislative Committee, is pursuing additional membership and has held its first meeting in November, 2001. At that meeting the committee worked to identify our partners, their key issues, and what role they play in service delivery to the birth-to-three population. Future meetings will focus on the mental health and stabilized funding issues.

Natural Environments Ad Hoc Committee

The Natural Environments Ad Hoc Committee served as a committee of The Washington State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities



and Their Families. The Ad Hoc Committee was made up of families, service providers, early intervention contractors, state and local agencies, Family Resource Coordinators, therapists, educators, and representatives from higher education. To achieve balanced representation, Ad Hoc Committee members were selected with consideration given to geographic representation, ethnic and cultural diversity, family perspective, service provider types, and agency representatives.



The Committee began working on the Guidelines in September 1999. In March 2001, draft Guidelines were distributed statewide to obtain public input. Input was received during the month of April 2001. The Committee reconvened in May 2001 to read and review all of the written comments submitted to the Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program. Revisions to the Guidelines were made based upon the comments received and feedback provided by the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC). Guidelines were forwarded to DSHS for review and final approval in October 2001. Statewide distribution of the approved Guidelines began in November 2001.

The purpose of Washington's Guidelines for Implementing Early Intervention Services in Natural Environments is to provide guidance to all individuals who comprise the state early intervention system in adapting and modifying services as necessary to meet the natural environments requirement of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C. The Guidelines emphasize the importance of providing early intervention services as part of the family's daily routine and activities.

Steering Committee

During the past year of strategic planning, changes have been made to this committee. The committee membership now includes the SICC Co-Chair, Vice-Chair, two state agency representatives, two parents, and the ITEIP director.



The committee's role has been determined to oversee three main activities:

- The strategic planning process;
- Directing emerging issues to be addressed by the SICC; and
- Finalizing agendas for upcoming meetings.

All Steering Committee meetings are held via conference call.

Information and Publications

Washington's Infant Toddler Early Intervention Studies

There are seven studies which present information on infants and toddlers, birth-to-three with disabilities, enrolled in public services provided by child development programs, neurodevelopmental centers, schools, local health jurisdictions, and Family Resources Coordinators. The studies are available for December 1, 1993, December 1, 1995, December 2, 1996, (these three reports plus May 1, 1994 and May 1, 1995 are also available in a compiled format) December 1, 1997, December 1, 1998, December 1, 1999, and December 1, 2000.

The Self-Assessment Tool

The *ITEIP Self-Assessment Tool* was revised in 2000 and its use was made a contract requirement for the ITEIP early intervention services local lead agency. It should be used in conjunction with parents and service providers in their geographic area. The tool assists local areas in determining their compliance with IDEA, Part C. The Self-Assessment Tool also includes satisfaction surveys for families and providers, along with the development of a local improvement action plan.

The Mediation Brochure

The *ITEIP Mediation Brochure* explains parents' rights regarding mediation services available to them in Washington State, under Part C of IDEA. The brochure also explains the process to use should they wish to participate in this service, and how to initiate the process. This brochure is available in English, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Cambodian, Laotian, Korean, and Vietnamese.

Parent Rights Brochure

The *Parent Rights Brochure* explains parents' procedural safeguards under IDEA, Part C. The brochure is shared with families by the Family Resources Coordinator (FRC) at numerous times throughout the child and family's participation in early intervention services.



Natural Environments Guidelines and Video

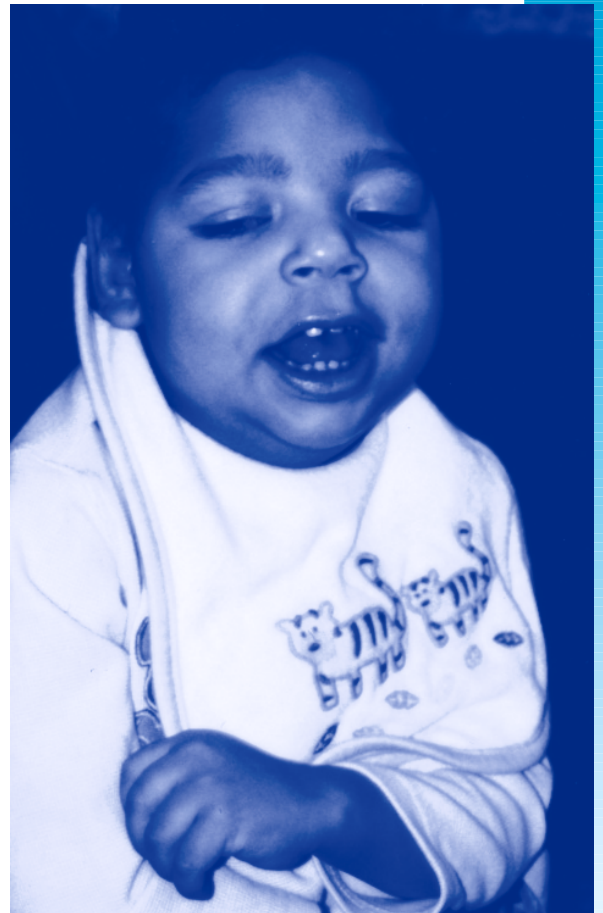
Washington's Guidelines for Implementing Early Intervention Services in Natural Environments provides guidance in adapting and modifying services to meet the natural environments requirement of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C. The Guidelines emphasize the importance of providing early intervention services as part of the family's daily routine and activities. See Natural Environments Ad Hoc Committee on page 22 for additional information about the video.

Public Awareness Materials

The following are state materials provided to local lead agencies and available through local Public Awareness Contacts in each county or geographic service area and from ITEIP for state agency and organizational needs. For information on local lead agencies, see the ITEIP Contractor List at <http://www.wa.gov/dshs/iteip/iteip.html>.

Please Ask, Babies Can't Wait Brochure

The *Please Ask, Babies Can't Wait* slogan adopted in June 1998 has been incorporated into all ITEIP public awareness materials. The importance of the first three years of life and the need for families to ask for and receive assistance quickly, if they have a concern about their child's development, is the message of this public awareness slogan. Brochures and posters using the slogan continue to be distributed statewide. These materials are a key piece of the statewide public awareness plan and are available in English and Spanish. Local providers, families and others interested can obtain these materials through their local public awareness contact. Focused efforts have been made in distributing these brochures to state agencies, including special efforts to share information with Medical Assistance Administration (MAA) contacts, Children's Administration and the statewide Child Care Resource and Referral Network. These groups are assisting in getting materials into communities around the state.





Please Ask, Babies Can't Wait Magnets and Stickers

Please Ask, Babies Can't Wait magnets and stickers were developed through the Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies contract, as a part of the enhanced statewide Public Awareness Campaign. They are available through the local public awareness contact in each local geographic service area. As a public service project, the stickers will be placed on baby changing tables in public restrooms throughout the state with the assistance of the Kiwanis Statewide organization.

Please Ask, Babies Can't Wait Rolodex Cards

Please Ask, Babies Can't Wait rolodex cards were mailed to health care providers throughout the state and are also available upon request from the local public awareness contact in each county/geographic service area.

A Family's Guide to Early Intervention Services

A Family's Guide to Early Intervention Services provides families a detailed description of IDEA, Part C early intervention services. It also describes parent and child rights under IDEA, Part C. The guide was revised in July 2001 to include all statewide family support agencies and organizations resource information. This guide is available in English, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Cambodian, Laotian, Korean, and Vietnamese.

Birth to Six Growth and Development Chart

The growth and development chart, originally developed in 1986 as a developmental wheel, is in use by many states across the country. It is a key element of the public awareness program. It has been revised to match color and text of the revised program brochure and *Please Ask, Babies Can't Wait* poster. Colorful and popular, the chart is a guide for developmental steps for children ages birth-to-six. It is available in English, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Cambodian, Laotian, Korean, and Vietnamese.

All of the above materials are available in English and Spanish hard copy. The Family Guide, growth and development chart and *Please Ask* brochure are also available in camera-ready Russian, Korean, Cambodian, Chinese, Laotian and Vietnamese.

Natural Learning Environments: Everybody Wins Video

ITEIP developed the video "Natural Learning Environments: Everybody Wins." The purpose of the video is to enhance state and federal policies and procedures, and to assist in the implementation of changes and services within the scope of the policy. The video highlights families and children receiving early intervention services in natural settings as part of the family's everyday routine.



Specifically, the video shares basic information regarding the provision of services in natural environments as required by the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C. The video, 15 minutes in length, has been distributed statewide to interested parents, families, early intervention service contractors, early intervention service providers, and early intervention stakeholders. The video was developed for use by ITEIP and its contractors, early intervention service providers and local community groups in providing a general overview of the IDEA Natural Environments requirements and showing programs within Washington State that provide services to children and families in natural environments.

Copies are available upon request through each local early intervention services lead agency and ITEIP. The tape is used as a companion to the *Washington State Guidelines for Implementing Services in Natural Environments* document.

Public Awareness Materials

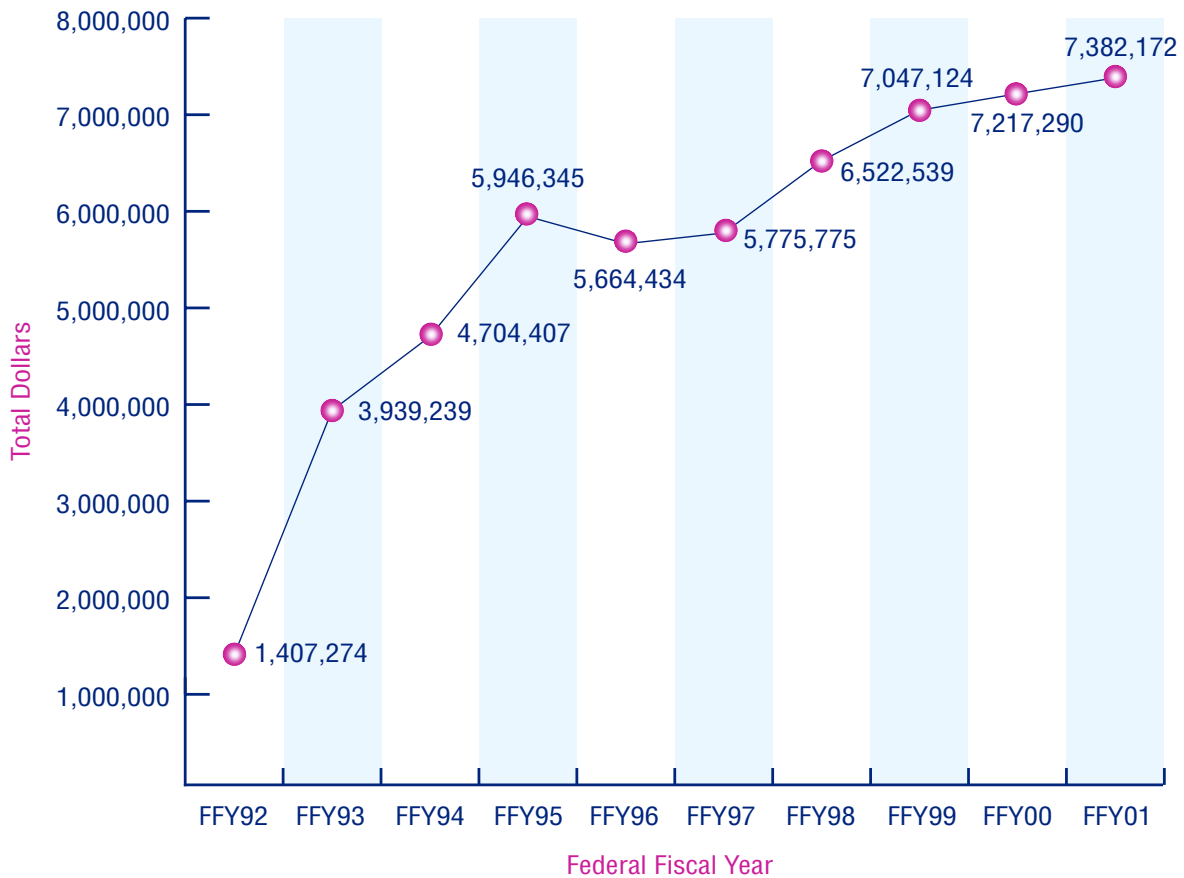
The following table is a breakdown of the public awareness materials that have been ordered between December 2000 and December 2001:

Material	English	Spanish	Russian	Other Languages
Parent Rights Brochure	9,980	2,540	120	50
Prescreen Chart	19,570	6,430	965	32
Family's Guide to Early Intervention Services	6,245	1,140	135	70
Please Ask, Babies Can't Wait Brochure	30,095	7,105	480	20
Please Ask, Babies Can't Wait Poster	1,293	977	NA	NA
Sound Options Mediation Brochure	2,407	853	5	50
Please Ask, Babies Can't Wait Magnets	2,055	696	NA	NA
Please Ask, Babies Can't Wait Rolodex	2,625	NA	NA	NA
Please Ask, Babies Can't Wait Stickers	1,905	1,847	NA	NA



Historical Federal Part C Funding

For Washington State's Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program



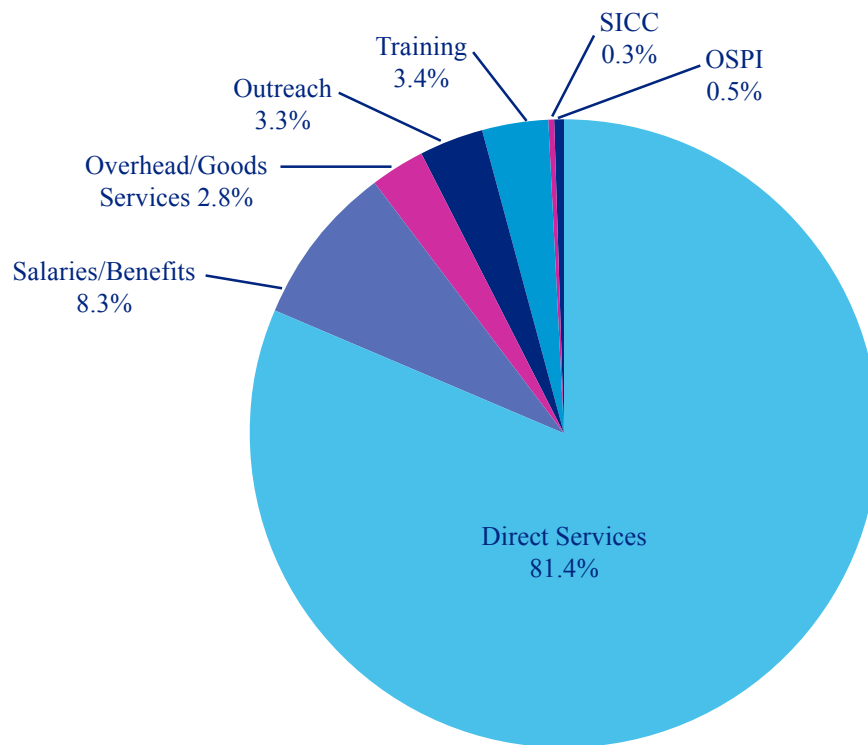


Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program

Federal Budget Allocation

The Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program applies for and receives the federal IDEA, Part C early intervention funding on an annual basis. Washington's federal grant for FFY00 was \$7,081,841.

Federal Fiscal Year 2000 From 10/1/00 - 9/30/01 (FFY 00) Budget



		DOLLARS	PERCENT
Direct Services:	Direct Services	\$5,764,403	81.4%
Program Administration:	Salaries/Benefits	\$588,540	8.3%
	Overhead/Goods & Services	\$200,000	2.8%
Implementation:	Outreach	\$232,397	3.3%
	Training	\$240,166	3.4%
	SICC	\$20,000	0.3%
Activities by Other Agencies:	OSPI	\$36,335	0.5%
TOTAL		\$7,081,841	100.00%

* Additional federal allocation received and budgeted to direct services: \$135,449



Early Intervention Program Data

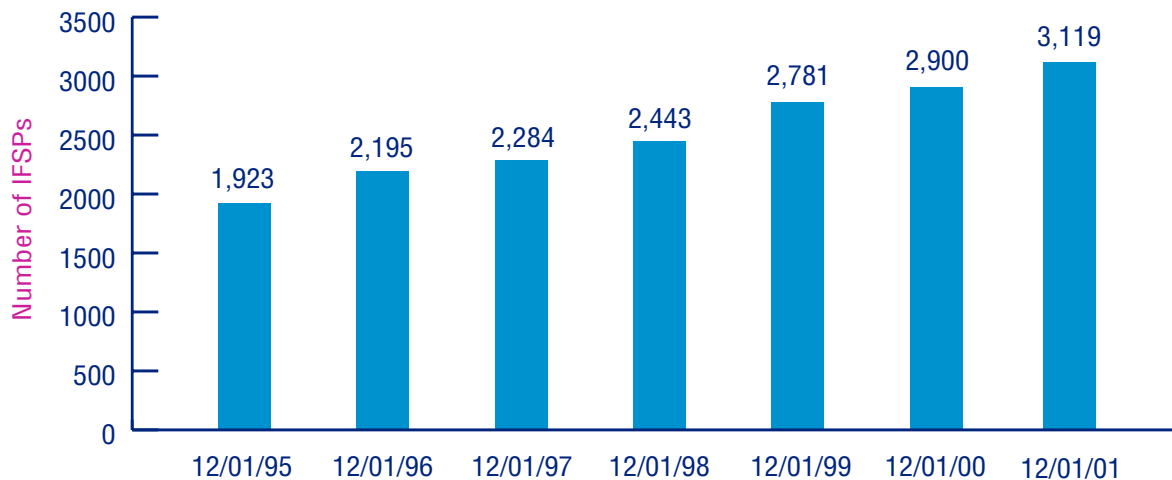
Unduplicated Count

An unduplicated count for the number of eligible children and their families with IFSPs, as of December 1 each year, is a federal requirement under IDEA, Part C. In order to ensure the annual unduplicated count, ITEIP contracted with DSHS Research and Data Analysis (RDA).

A total of 2,900 infants and toddlers with IFSPs were reported on December 1, 2000. In addition, the number of infants and toddlers with IFSPs by age groups and settings is also collected. This is the count of IFSPs on a day in time. Annual count is approximately twice the December count. For example, during October 1999 through September 2000 there were 5,126 served. In addition, ITEIP assisted 5,345 family referred early intervention services during the same time. The following charts demonstrate this data. As shown in the table and figure below, this is a continuation of recent growth in IFSPs. Starting with December 2001, the unduplicated count is generated by the electronic ITEIP Data System. A total count of 3,119 was generated on December 1, 2001.

Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program

Total Number of Children with an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)



Washington Annual Data

Date of Count	Total IFSPs
December 1, 1995	1,923
December 2, 1996	2,195
December 1, 1997	2,284
December 1, 1998	2,443
December 1, 1999	2,781
December 1, 2000	2,900
December 1, 2001	3,119



Washington State Race and Ethnicity From the 2000 Census

Washington Race/Ethnicity

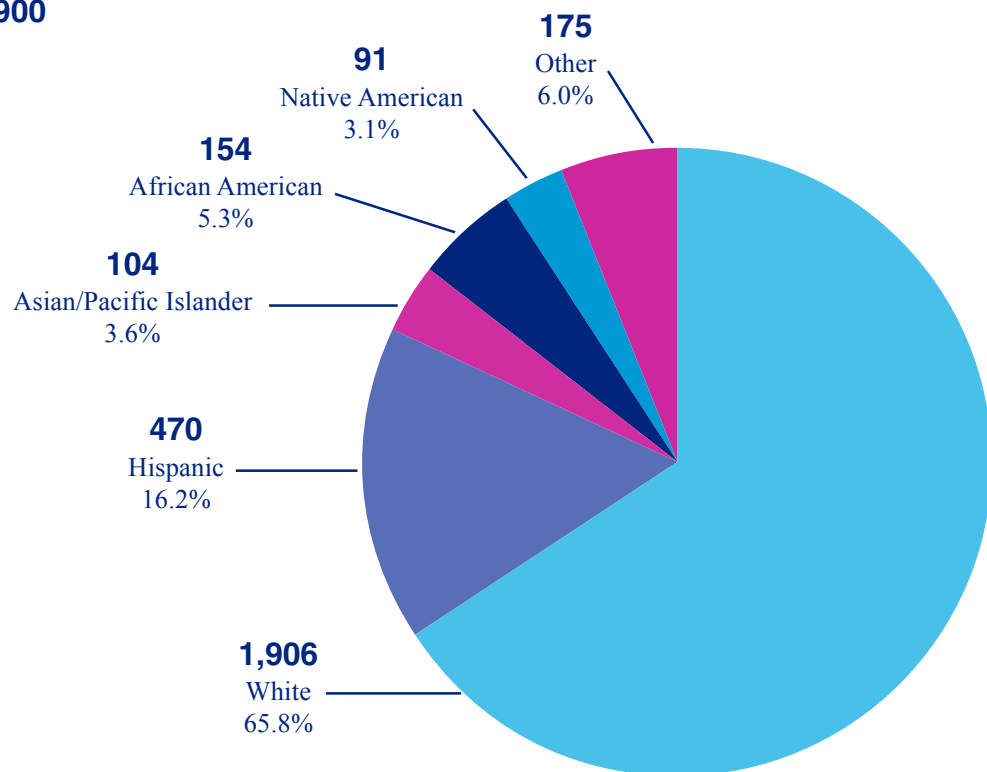
Washington state's total population by race/ethnicity for the 2000 census is as follows:

White 81.8%, Black or African American 3.2%, American Indian and Alaska Native 1.6%, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Island 5.9%, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity (of any race) 7.5%. Hispanic or Latino may be counted in one or more races.

Figure 1. The following chart reflects Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program (ITEIP) the race/ethnicity for year 2000. The total population served was 2,900. For IDEA, Part C race/ethnicity data for Hispanic is federally reported as one of six categories. In addition some families do not report in the federal categories. Therefore, ITEIP works with families to report their children in multiracial/cultural, categories as appropriate for their family. ITEIP reports this as Other in the federal report. ITEIP has a complete breakdown available for interested parties.

Population Served for 2000 by Race/Ethnicity

Served: 2,900





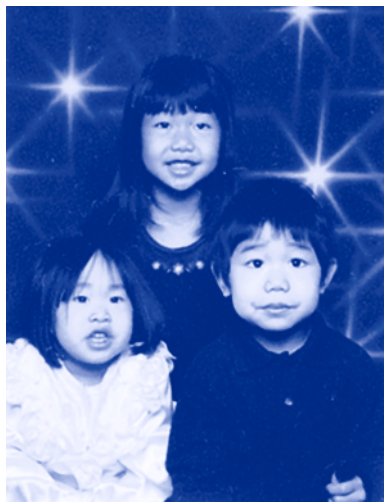
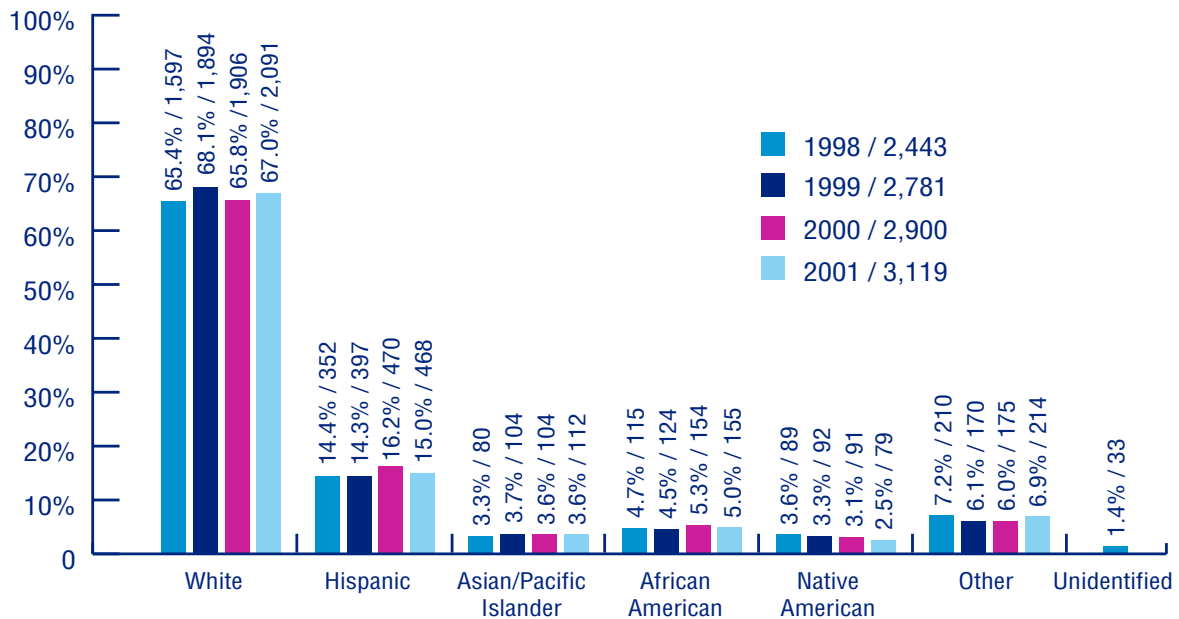
Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program

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Individuals with Disabilities Education Act - Part C

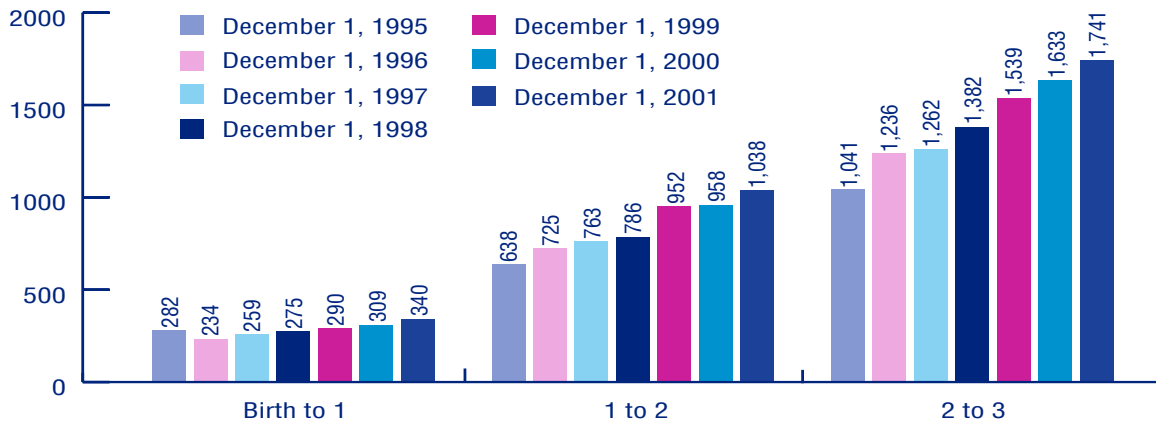
Figure 2. The following chart represents the Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program total population served from 1998 through 2001 by race/ethnicity.

Race/Ethnicity Percentages and Population Served



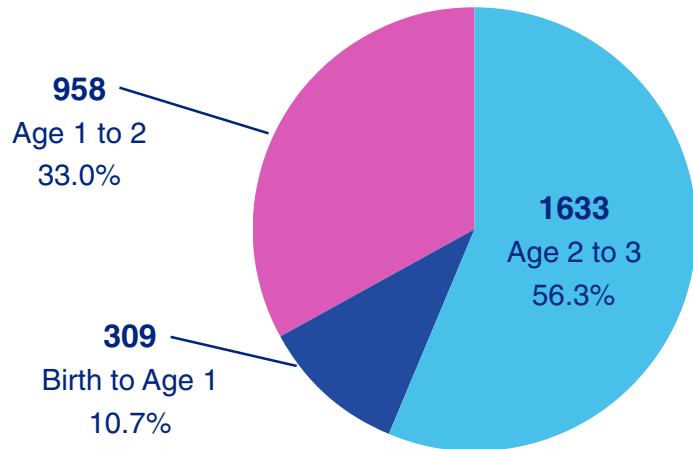


Comparison Unduplicated Count by Ages for December 1, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001



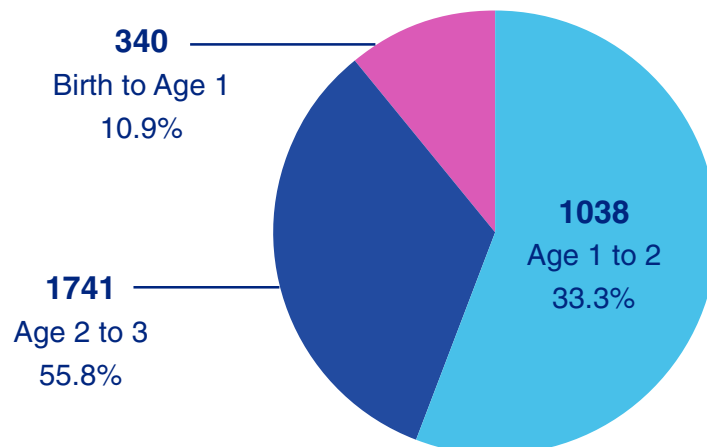
December 1, 2000 Distribution by Age

Total = 2,900



December 1, 2001 Distribution by Age

Total = 3,119



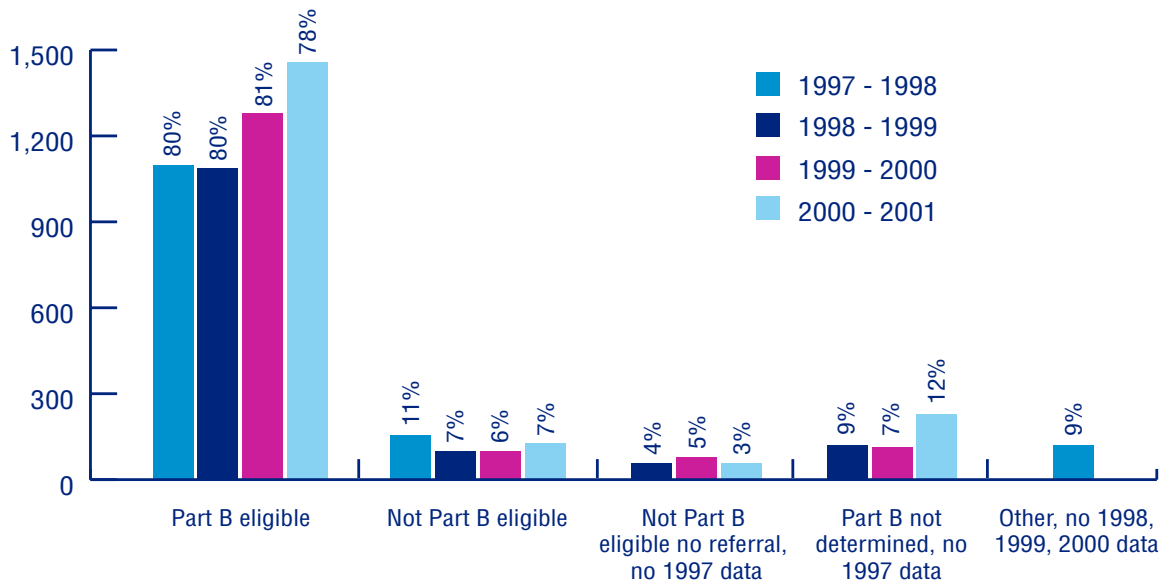


Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program

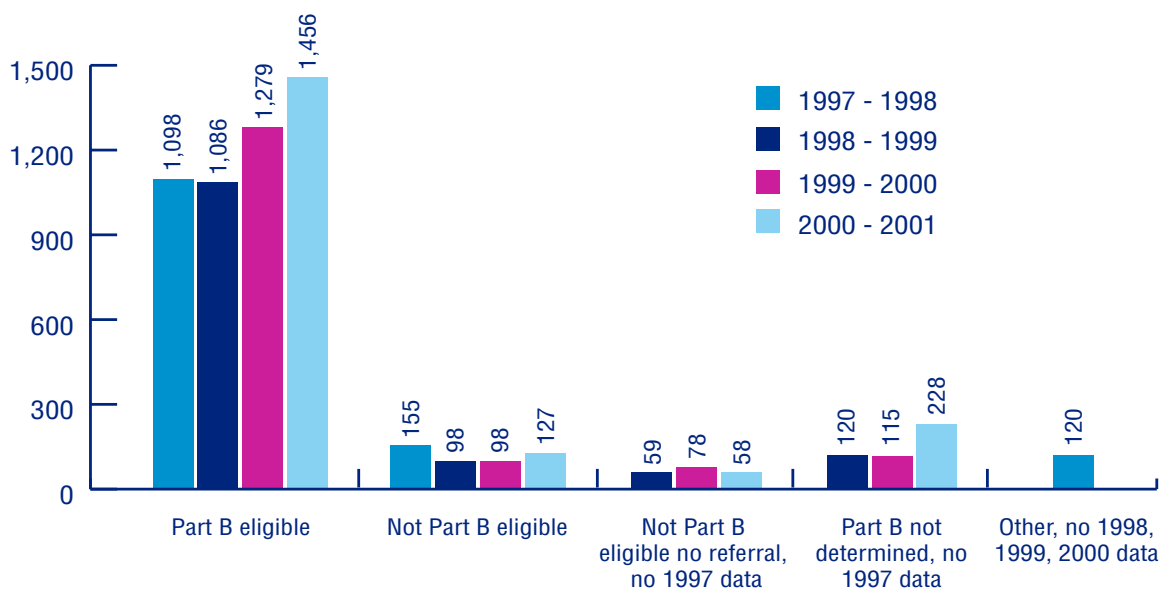
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Individuals with Disabilities Education Act - Part C

Total Percent of Children Transitioned at Age 3 for Years 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000



Total Number of Children Transitioned at Age 3 for Years 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000

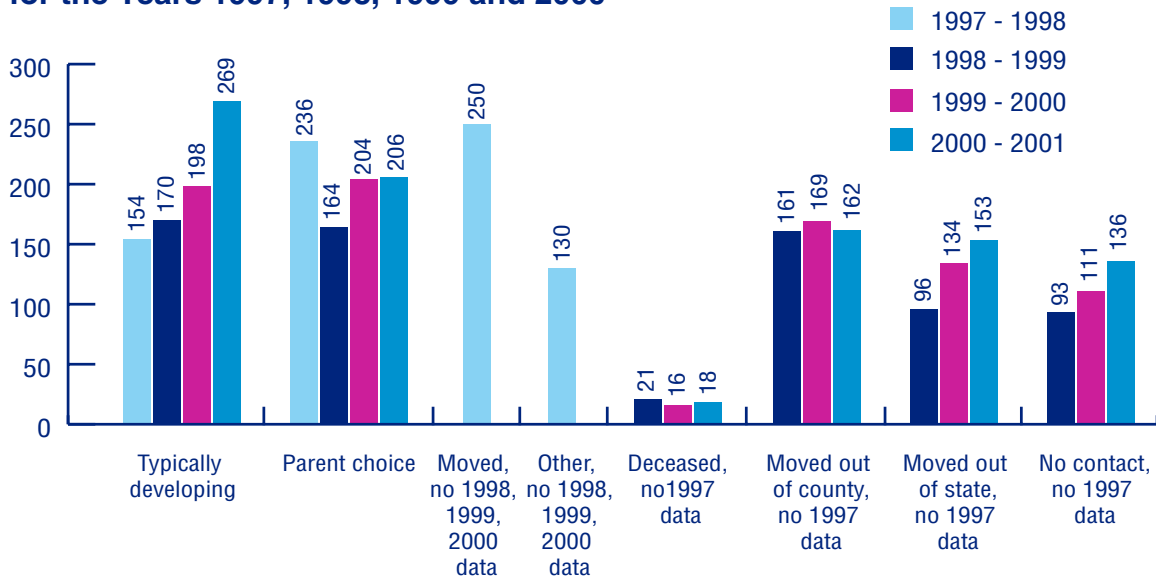


Number of Children no longer eligible in need of Special Education:

- *1997 of total transitions 1,373, 11.3% of the children no longer needed services
- *1998 of total transitions 1,363, 11.5% of the children no longer needed services
- *1999 of total transitions 1,570, 11.2% of the children no longer needed services
- *2000 of total transitions 1,869, 9.9% of the children no longer needed services



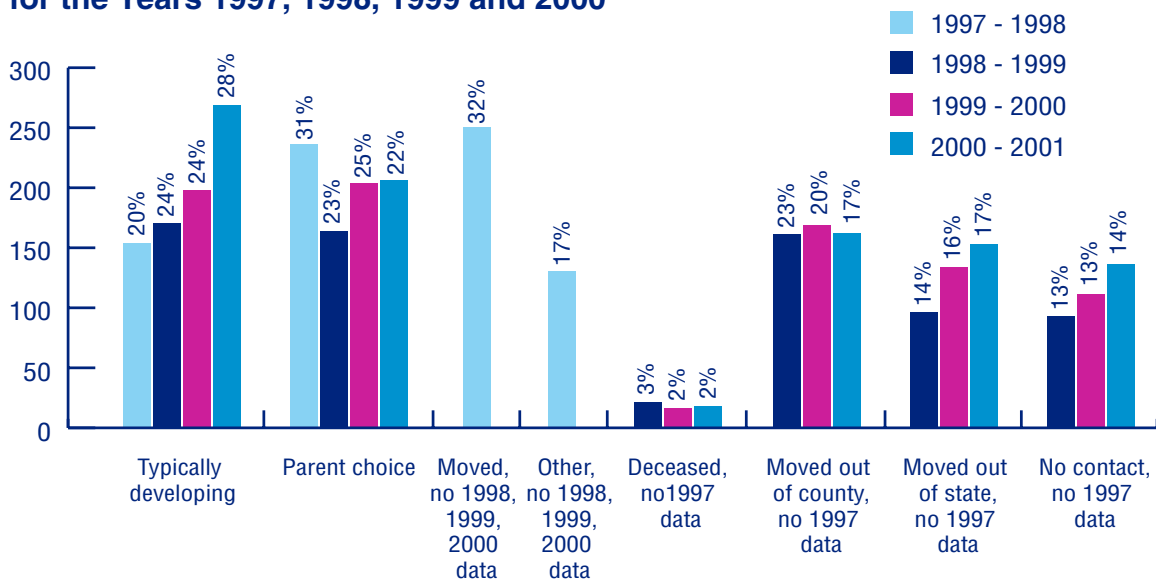
Total Number of Transitions Under Age 3 for the Years 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000



Number of Children no longer eligible or need of Early Intervention Services:

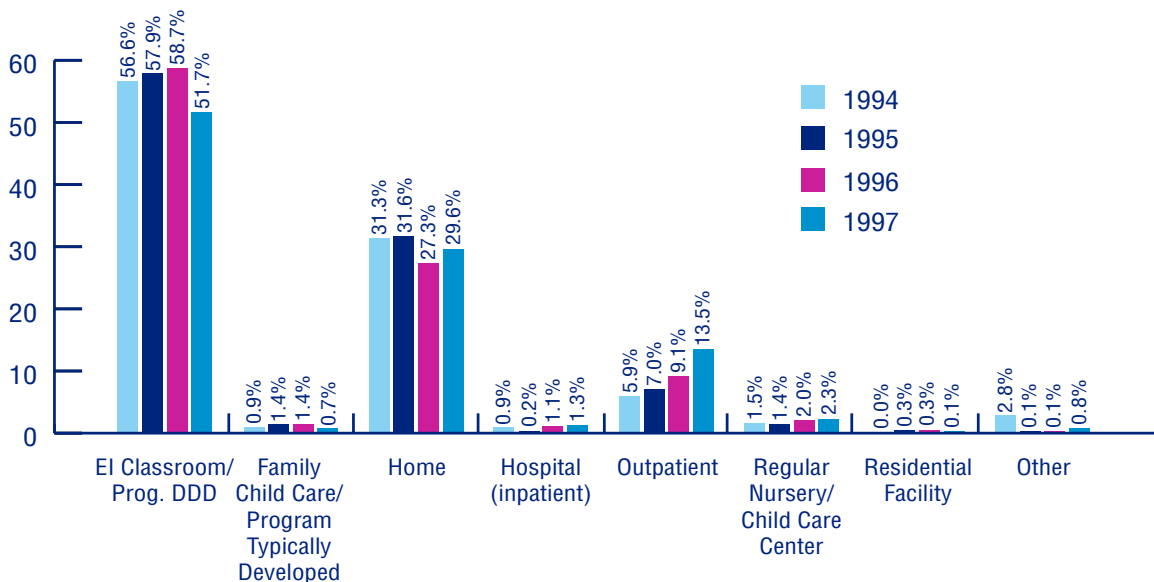
- * 1997 of total transitions 770, 20% of the children no longer needed services
- * 1998 of total transitions 705, 24% of the children no longer needed services
- * 1999 of total transitions 832, 24% of the children no longer needed services
- * 2000 of total transitions 944, 28% of the children no longer needed services

Total Percent of Transitions Under Age 3 for the Years 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000





Percentage of Total Children in Each Setting December 1, 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997



Program Settings Key

Early Intervention (EI) Program DDD:

Setting refers to an organized program of at least one hour in duration provided on a regular basis for a group of children. This program is usually directed toward the facilitation of several developmental areas.

Family Child Care Program Typically:

Services are provided to the child in a home but the home is not the principal residence of the child's family.

Home:

Services are provided in the principal residence of the child's family or caregivers.

Hospital-Inpatient:

Hospital refers to a residential medical facility. Child must be receiving services on an inpatient basis.

Outpatient Service Facility:

Outpatient services are provided at a center clinic, or hospital where the infant or toddler comes for short periods of time (e.g., 45 minutes) to receive services. These services may be provided individually or to a small group of children.



Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program

Regular Nursery School/Child Care Center:

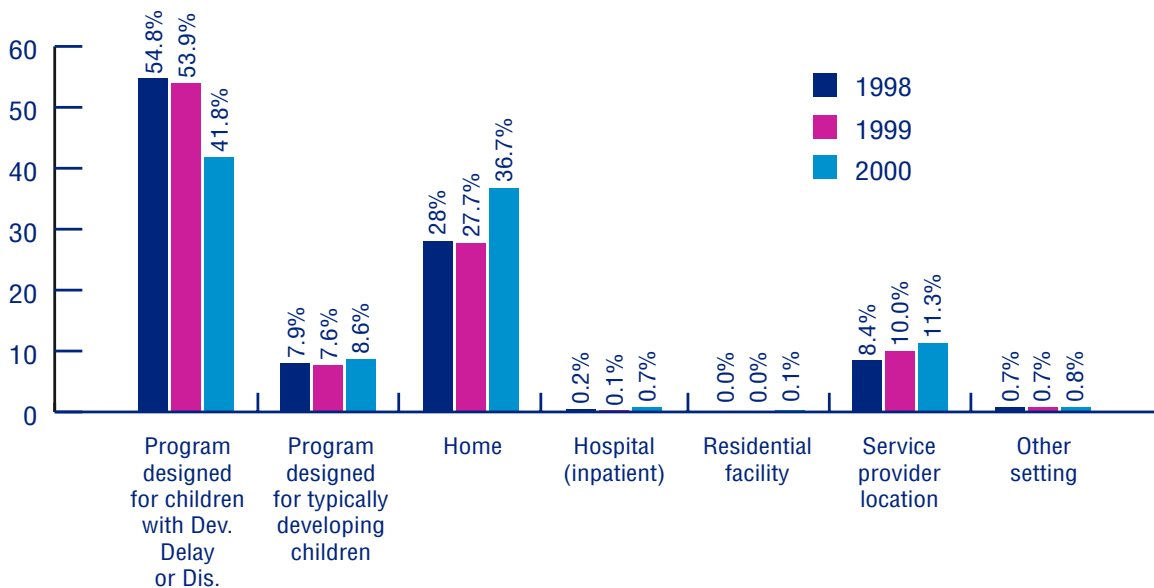
Services are provided in a facility regularly attended by a group of children. Most of the children in this setting do not have disabilities.

Residential Facility: Residential program refers to a treatment facility which is not primarily medical in nature where the infant or toddler currently resides in order to receive early intervention services.

Other: Any setting not described by the settings listed above.

Percentage of Total Children in Each Setting

December 1, 1998, 1999 and 2000



Program Settings Key

Program DDD:

Setting refers to an organized program of at least one hour in duration provided on a regular basis. The program is usually directed toward the facilitation of one or more developmental areas. Examples include early intervention classroom/centers and development child-care programs.

Program Typically:

Services are provided in a program regularly attended by a group of children. Most of the children in this setting do not have disabilities.



Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program

Home:

Services are provided in the principal residence of the child's family or caregivers.

Hospital-Inpatient:

Hospital refers to a residential medical facility. Child must be receiving services on an inpatient basis.

Residential Facility:

This setting refers to a treatment facility, which is not primarily medical in nature, where the infant or toddler currently resides.

Service Location:

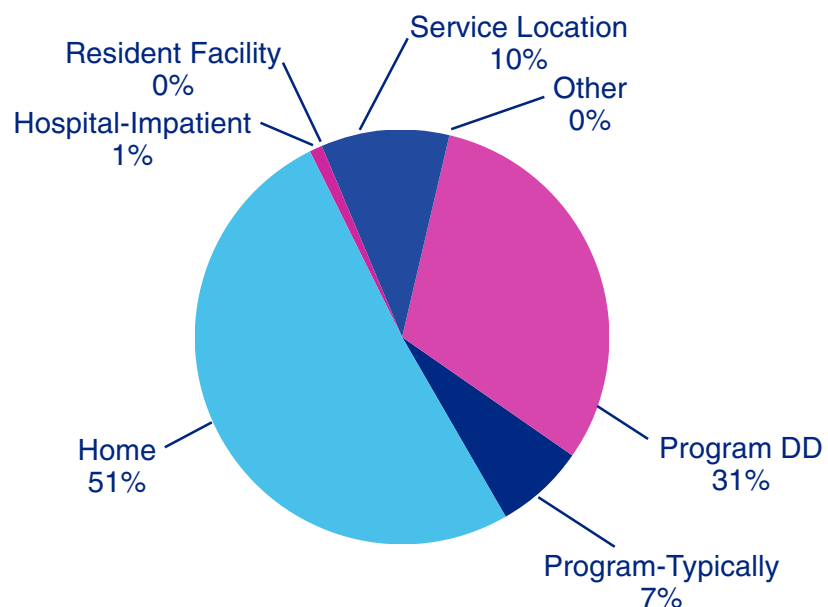
Services are provided at an office, clinic, or hospital where the infant or toddler comes for short periods of time to receive services. These services must be delivered individually or to a small group of children.

Other:

Any service setting not included in the settings or programs listed.

Program Settings by Age for DECEMBER 1, 2000

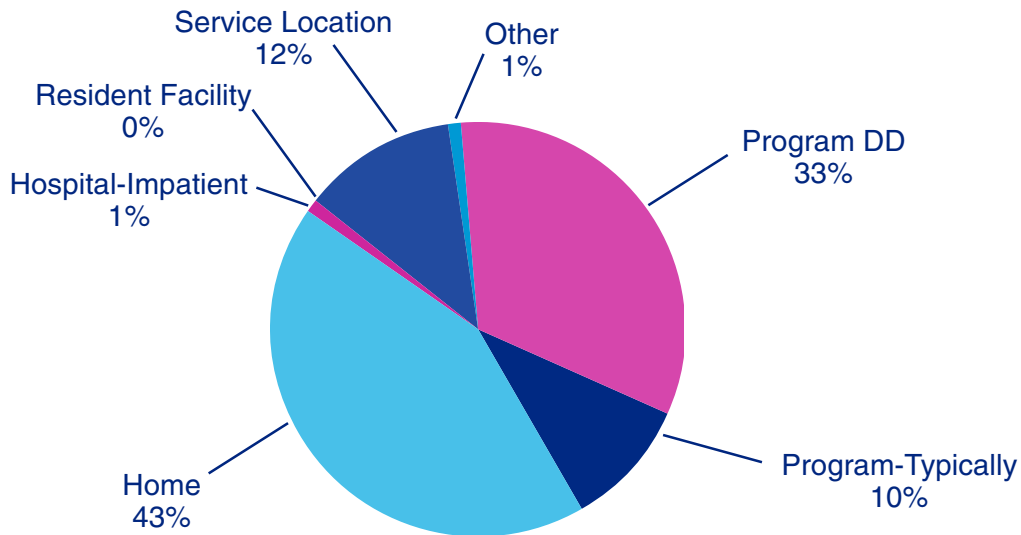
Children Birth-To-One



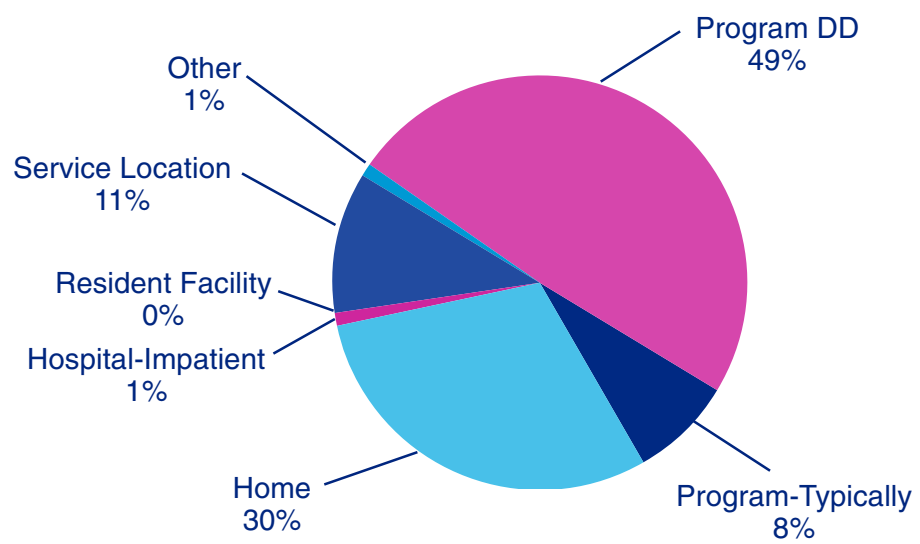


Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program

Children One-To-Two



Children Two-To-Three





ITEIP Information

For more information regarding this program and/or to order any of the materials or additional copies of this report, please call, write, or e-mail the Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program at:

Department of Social and Health Services

Division of Developmental Disabilities

Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program

1115 Washington Street SE

Post Office Box 45201

Olympia, Washington 98504-5201

(360) 902-8488 MAIN LINE

(360) 902-8497 FAX

(360) 902-7864 TDD

Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program Web Site – To access the web site enter <http://www.wa.gov/dshs/iteip/iteip.html>. Please visit the site and share it with others. The Website also has many family support and informational links to other sites.

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Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program

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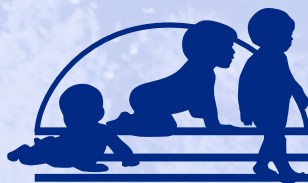
Authorizing Legislation

Federal Legislation:

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part C
Federal Rules: 34 CFR Part 303

State Authorization:

Governor's Executive Order 01-04
RCW 70.195 & RCW 71A



Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program
Washington State Department of Social and Health Services



Washington State
Department of Social
& Health Services

DSHS (6/02)